



**State of New
Hampshire
Department of
Education**

101 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-3494 or
1-800-339-9900
TDD: 1-800-735-2964
Fax: (603) 271-1953
www.education.nh.gov

For more information
please contact:
Lori Temple
Public Information Officer
(603) 271-6646 or
Lori.Temple@doe.nh.gov

Messages From the Department of Education

November 2013

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ACCOUNTABILITY, ASSESSMENT, CURRICULUM, AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

A. SBAC Technology Requirements

The online Smarter Balanced Assessment System was designed to operate within the technology infrastructures that currently exist in most schools and districts. It is important that all schools determine their degree of technology readiness. Detailed information on the minimum necessary specifications to operate the assessment system can be found on the Office of Technology Web site: www.nheon.org/oet/readiness/index.htm. Please check your system to be sure that you have the minimum requirements to operate the SBAC assessment.

Contact: Stan Freeda, (603) 271-5132, Stanley.Freeda@doe.nh.gov

CERTIFICATION

A. Alternatives 4 and 5

Alternative 4 and 5 certification plans are due four (4) weeks from the start of an educator's employment. The preferred method of submission is in PDF from the applicant to the Superintendent who in turn submits to the DOE. The Bureau of Credentialing will be offering assistance in this area. Please be on the look-out for further information.

Contact: Rilma Fox, (603) 271-3873, Rilma.Fox@doe.nh.gov

B. Alternative 4 or Alternative 5 Plans

If any districts have educators who are on their second year of Alternative 5 or their third year of Alternative 4 plans please be aware that their completed plans are due not later than June 30, 2014. After that date they are no longer eligible for an intern license and it will be rescinded. They must have a recommendation that their plan is completed to be eligible for a beginning educator credential.

Contact: Rilma Fox (603) 271-3873, Rilma.Fox@doe.nh.gov

C. HQT Data in the Educator Information System

The teachers who are **Not-HQT** (2012-13) will be included in counts sent to the US Department of Education at the end of November. We do not want the data to misrepresent an overabundance of non-HQT teachers. The HQT system in EIS is fairly new but this is the second year that we will be extracting the HQT data directly from the database. There is a **new function** in EIS to download the list of NOT-HQT educators into an excel spreadsheet. We want to help you understand how to make the necessary changes to your teachers' status or class assignments. **Please join us for a webinar training session on managing HQT in EIS.** The training will be most helpful for the staff members who manage human resources and data uploads. It will focus upon HQT, not the data submission process. For help and training with data submissions contact Cyndy Currier at ccurrier@mac.com and i4see.help@doe.nh.gov for general questions. Registration Web link: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/153368824>.

Contact for HQT: Ginny Clifford, (603) 271-3455, Virginia.Clifford@doe.nh.gov

D. Professional Development Committee Contacts

Please forward any changes in the contact information for District/SAU professional development committee chairs or SAU/district contacts to Lisa Kaim. Having this contact facilitates communication regarding professional development opportunities as well as PD Master Plan revisions.

Contact: Lisa Kaim, (603) 271-8049, Lisa.Kaim@doe.nh.gov

E. Ed 512 for Professional Development Master Plans

Please consider attending a webinar on the new PD Master Plan rules on Wednesday, November 20th from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. We will look at changes in the rules, view the new review form and consider a template to help organize the plans. Registration Web link: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/778002049>.

Contact: Ginny Clifford, (603) 271-3455, Virginia.Clifford@doe.nh.gov

F. Praxis Tests

Please check New Hampshire's page on the ETS Web site before suggesting that your staff take any Praxis tests. www.ets.org/praxis/nh. There are new test codes for the middle level and high school ELA and math assessments.

Contact: Ginny Clifford, (603) 271-3455, Virginia.Clifford@doe.nh.gov

G. Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators: REPLACEMENT FOR PRAXIS I

The Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators assessment has replaced the PPST or Praxis I. When students register for their tests, as always, be sure to tell them to select their tests from the New Hampshire page on the ETS Web site. Educators will now take the Core before obtaining a Statement of Eligibility (SOE) instead of the Praxis I. See: <http://www.ets.org/praxis/nh/requirements> *Tests Required for All Licensure Areas*.

Contact: Ginny Clifford, (603) 271-3455, Virginia.Clifford@doe.nh.gov

DATA

A. PerformancePLUS Update

- New Hampshire Department of Education data trainers are available to come to your school site to provide professional development for administrators and teachers in data analysis using PerformancePLUS, Longitudinal reports, School and District Profiles and other state supported tools. Please request support with plenty of lead-time so we can accommodate you.
- The spring 2013 NECAP Science results are now available in PerformancePLUS.
- SAT, ACT and AP data from 2012-2013 is now available in PerformancePLUS.
- AimsWeb benchmark data will be uploaded to PerformancePLUS weekly this year including progress monitoring data that will be uploaded to the interventions.

- PerformancePLUS assessment frameworks for the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark System, Words Their Way, and PALS have been developed and can be added to any school's PerformancePLUS frameworks.

Contact: Irene Koffink, (603) 271-3865, Irene.Koffink@doe.nh.gov

EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS

A. Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)

The NH DOE will offer an Introduction to Student Learning Objectives presentation that will include the following:

- Define SLOs
- Purpose of SLOs
- SLO Evaluation Cycle
- Reviewing SLOs
- SLO Growth Targets
- Writing an SLO
- Resources and next steps

The regional liaisons will be talking to each region to determine the best way to provide this service. We are very flexible and want to meet the needs of each region. In addition there will be training of educators in the content areas who will become the leaders in SLO development and implementation. One goal is to develop SLO templates for use by teachers, schools and districts based on district standards. Further information will be forthcoming on this training.

Contact: Karen Soule, (603) 271-4196, Karen.Soule@doe.nh.gov

B. NH Model Educator Support and Evaluation System Self-Assessments

We are currently collating the results of the Self-Assessments that were completed by SAU's around the NH Model Educator Support and Evaluation System. This will assist us in determining what opportunities for supports the NH DOE can make available to schools, districts, SAUs and regions around educator effectiveness.

Contact: Karen Soule, (603) 271-4196, Karen.Soule@doe.nh.gov

C. Educator Effectiveness Network

Please check out the Educator Effectiveness Network. If you have resources that you would like to share on the network, please contact Karen.Soule@doe.nh.gov.

GRANTS and REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

ALL RFPs Can be Found on the Department Website at
www.education.nh.gov/rfp/index.htm

A. Professional Development Trainer for Volunteer Educational Surrogate Parent and Facilitated IEP Meeting Program

The Bureau of Special Education is seeking proposals for an individual to develop and provide the required professional development and training for the N.H. Volunteer

Educational Surrogate Parent Program per Ed 1115 and Facilitated IEP Meeting Program listed under RSA 186-C:23 Alternative Dispute Resolutions. Deadline for receipt of proposals is Friday, November 15, 2013.

Contact: Barbara Raymond (603) 271-3791, Barbara.Raymond@doe.nh.gov

B. New Hampshire Special Education Family and School Partnership Initiative

The Bureau of Special Education is seeking proposals from individuals, agencies, or organizations interested in building on the current statewide initiative to provide the opportunity to involve/engage parents and families of children and youth with disabilities in their individual child's education, in their schools and communities regarding the special education process at the district and school level. Deadline for receipt of proposals is Friday, November 22, 2013.

Contact: Barbara Raymond (603) 271-3791, Barbara.Raymond@doe.nh.gov

INNOVATIONS/INITIATIVES

A. Breakfast Challenge

The Breakfast Challenge is a collaborative project through associations such as the Children's Alliance, NH Department of Education and School Nutrition Association of NH. The Challenge asks that all schools increase participation in the breakfast program by 25% over a two year period. For more information regarding the Challenge please go to www.nhschoolbreakfast.org.

Contact: Cheri White, (603) 271-3860, Cheri.White@doe.nh.gov

NH HIGH SCHOOL REDESIGN

A. Computer Programming Certificate for High School Students Through Community College System's eStart Program

New Hampshire students can now graduate from high school with a college certificate in computer programming, thanks to a new offering from Manchester Community College (MCC) and the Virtual Learning Academy Charter School (VLACS). The certificate is designed to prepare students for careers in computer programming, and provide the skills necessary for entry-level positions in the field. The certificate program consists of six 100 percent online courses which confer both high school and college credit. The program, open to all NH high school juniors and seniors, was developed to create an educational pathway for high school students to earn a computer programming certificate through CCSNH's eStart program. eStart is a partnership between CCSNH and VLACS enabling students to earn dual high school and college credit through online courses taught by college instructors. Courses taken through eStart, including those in the new computer programming certificate program, are offered at \$150 per course. To inquire or enroll in a course, please contact Ed Symes, eStart Program Coordinator, estart@ccsnh.edu or visit <http://www.ccsnh.edu/estart-courses-fall-2013>.

SCHOOL APPROVAL STANDARDS

A. Public School Approval

At least once every two years, RSA 193-E:3-b, *Accountability for the Opportunity for an Adequate Education*, requires school officials to submit a narrative explanation detailing how their school complies with each of 12 applicable minimum standards included in the definition of an “opportunity for an adequate education.” This submission is accomplished through the online Input Based Accountability System (IBAS) Survey.

- Schools with an approval status which expired June 2013 and were recently re-approved for a five year period are exempt from this requirement.
- Principals of schools recently notified of a Conditional Approval 1 (CA1) status are required to update the Department’s Office of School Approval regarding the status of those standards designated as “Not Met.” They do not need to complete and submit the IBAS again this year.
- Principals of schools with an approval status expiring June 2014 are required to answer all the questions in the IBAS Survey and submit fire and health inspection reports to the Office of School Approval. A separate letter has been sent to these school principals. Health inspection forms are available on the Department’s Web site at www.education.nh.gov/program/school_approval/public_approval_forms.htm.

Principals required to complete the IBAS survey this year are asked to electronically forward it to their superintendent no later than December 20, 2013. Superintendents are required to electronically submit the Survey to the Department by January 10, 2014. The IBAS can be found in the MyDOE Single Sign-On System at: <https://my.doe.nh.gov/myNHDOE>. After logging on to the system, verify the year is set at 2013-2014. The IBAS is the survey identified as *RSA 193-E:3-b Accountability for the Opportunity for an Adequate Education*.

If the principal or superintendent has changed, it is important for the new person to work with the district’s i4see coordinator to obtain access to the IBAS survey and other Department of Education surveys.

Contact: Leslie Higgins, (603) 271-3759, Leslie.Higgins@doe.nh.gov or
Marie Morgan, (603) 271-4125, Marie.Morgan@doe.nh.gov

B. Nonpublic School Advisory Council

The Nonpublic School Advisory Council (NPSAC) was established under Ed 400 to perform duties assigned by the State Board of Education related to nonpublic schools, to facilitate communications between the Department of Education and nonpublic schools, and to raise issues of concern to nonpublic schools. The NPSAC consists of 21 members. Recently a position was created for a public school official to serve on the Council. Persons interested in serving on the Council for a three year term are encouraged to submit a brief resume and cover letter explaining their interest in the position to Dr. Judith Fillion at Judith.Fillion@doe.nh.gov. More information regarding the Council, its meeting calendar, and past meeting minutes are available on the Department’s Web site at www.education.nh.gov/program/school_approval/non_public_council.htm.

Contact: Leslie Higgins, (603) 271-3759, Leslie.Higgins@doe.nh.gov or
Marie Morgan, (603) 271-4125, Marie.Morgan@doe.nh.gov

C. Nonpublic Schools

Officials of nonpublic schools with an approval status expiring June 2014 were reminded in September 2013 to submit a “Nonpublic School Renewal Application” with current fire and health inspection reports. These are due December 13, 2013.

Contact: Leslie Higgins, (603) 271-3759, Leslie.Higgins@doe.nh.gov or
Marie Morgan, (603) 271-4125, Marie.Morgan@doe.nh.gov

SPECIAL EDUCATION

A. Educational Surrogate Parent

A volunteer program designed to provide a child with a disability with an educational surrogate parent to act as the child’s educational decision-maker. As the educational decision-maker you: would participate in a child’s special education team meetings; represent children whose parents are unavailable or unable to participate in the special education process; are not responsible for any financial costs or direct care of the child; must be at least 21 years of age; and complete an application that includes a background check.

The NH DOE requires applicants to participate in a nine-hour training, which is offered at no cost to applicants. The training includes information on the special education process and related topics. (Professional Development credits are available for this training)

Training Schedule:

- Saturday, November 16, 2013, Peterborough, NH (9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, April 12, 2014, Plymouth, NH (9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, May 10, 2014, Portsmouth, NH (9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 7, 2014, Conway, NH or Concord, NH (9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)

Contact: ,Amy Jenks, (603) 271-3842, Amy.Jenks@doe.nh.gov

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Placing the Arts at the Heart

The 19th Annual Reimagined Integrated Arts Conference will take place on Friday, January 24, 2014 at the Silver Center for the Arts, Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH. Learn to connect to the state’s new standards in mathematics and English language arts/literacy and the new voluntary National Core Arts Standards with other educators, administrators, and artists. This conference is presented by Plymouth State University and the New Hampshire Department of Education with support from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire, and the New Hampshire Arts Learning Network. For more information or to register go to www.plymouth.edu/outreach/etc/integrated-arts-conference or contact Deb Stalnaker at dlstalnaker@plymouth.edu.

B. Pathways to the Common Core: Accelerating Achievement

Inspiring Engaged Instruction to Address the Common Core is the theme for the 2013-2014 NHASCD Conference series. On January 10, 2014 Lucy Calkins will outline the key implications of the Common Core State Standards and provide guidance for developing a

literacy plan for aligning reading, writing, and content-area instruction to the CCSS. She will demonstrate how to revise your literacy curriculum to support the new dimensions of learning; teach higher levels of comprehension and composition skills; teach students to compare/contrast, theorize/analyze, and interpret/think critically; and plan for narrative, argumentative, and informational writing in fiction and non-fiction. For more information or to register go to <http://nhascd.net>.

DEPARTMENT STAFF UPDATES

NHASCD is proud to announce the selection of **Roberta Tenney** as its President for 2013 - 2015. She follows William Carozza who served as an outstanding President in 2011 - 2013. A long time NHASCD Board member, Roberta brings a wealth of expertise, insight, and commitment to the Presidency. She is an experienced Dean of Faculty, social studies teacher and department chair and is presently the Administrator in the Office of School Standards at the NH Department of Education. "Rob" Tenney is deeply involved with school improvement, instructional innovation, public charter schools, home-schooling issues, the New Hampshire Professional Learning Networks, Next Generation Learning, the Great Schools Partnership, and the New England Secondary Schools Consortium. Rob can be reached at (603) 271-2079 or Roberta.Tenney@doe.nh.gov.

RESOURCES

A. Section 504

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504") requires school districts to provide impartial hearings when requested to resolve issues concerning compliance with Section 504. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) enforces Section 504 in programs and activities that receive funds from ED. ED has published a regulation implementing Section 504 (34 C.F.R. Part 104) and maintains an Office for Civil Rights (OCR), with 12 enforcement offices and a headquarters office in Washington, D.C., to enforce Section 504 and other civil rights laws that pertain to recipients of federal funds. Although the State of New Hampshire neither enforces Section 504 nor provides impartial hearings pertaining to Section 504, the New Hampshire Department of Education (DOE) has compiled a model procedure for Section 504 impartial hearings to assist school districts to comply with Section 504. The Department has also developed Users' Guide to Section 504 Hearings as well as a PowerPoint presentation of the Model Section 504 Hearing Procedure. A link to the Model Section 504 Hearing Procedure Users' Guide and PowerPoint can be found on the DOE Web site under the Hearings/Mediation Information page as well as Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act page. For more information go to www.education.nh.gov/instruction/integrated/504.htm.

Contact: Tina Greco, (603) 271-3993, Tina.Greco@doe.nh.gov (Technical Assistance)
Stephen Berwick, (603) 271-2299, Stephen.Berwick@doe.nh.gov (Hearings Procedures)

B. Speak Up 2013

Speak Up provides an easy way for students, parents and educators to participate in your local decisions about technology, as well as contribute to the state and national dialogue about educational technology. Since 2003, Project Tomorrow has collected the viewpoints of

over 3 million students, educators and parents – the Speak Up dataset represents the largest collection of authentic feedback from these key educational stakeholders. Survey topics for Speak Up 2013 include, but are not limited to, learning and teaching with technology, 21st century skills, science/math instruction, professional development, STEM career exploration, parents' concerns, online and blended learning, school-to-home communications, mobile devices, flipped classrooms, e-textbooks, digital citizenship and investment recommendations for 21st century schools. For more information go to www.tomorrow.org/speakup/NewHampshire.html.

C. Third Party Discussion Led by Moderator

For more than 20 years the DOE has actively promoted Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) as a timely, cost-effective and confidential method of helping people to resolve disputes before going to an administrative hearing. The result of conversations with a variety of stakeholders during the past year is the creation of the Informal Third Party Discussion Led by Moderator. For more information go to www.education.nh.gov/legislation/hearings.htm.

Contact: Stephen Berwick, (603) 271-2299, Stephen.Berwick@doe.nh.gov

OTHER

NH Excellence In Education “ED”ies Awards

How would you and your school like to be awarded \$2,000 and be recognized around the State of New Hampshire for the excellence you do? The awards for the outstanding elementary, middle, and secondary schools are determined by criteria developed by the New Hampshire Excellence in Education Awards Board of Directors and applied by selection committees composed of experienced New Hampshire educators and community leaders. The committees study school applications and assess schools through on-site visitations. The selection committees determine if schools deserve recognition as schools of excellence, and the winners are announced at the annual New Hampshire “ED”ies Awards Celebration. It is the intent of the “ED”ies Committee to provide a process that honors exemplary practices and excellence at the elementary, middle, and high school levels throughout the Granite State. For more information go to www.edies.org/application_info.htm.

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)

Nominations for outstanding elementary, grades K-6 mathematics and science (including computer science) teachers are now open for the 2014 awards. The PAEMST are the nation's highest honors for K-12 teachers of mathematics and science. Awardees serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of mathematics and science education. Since 1983, more than 4,200 teachers have been recognized for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession. If you know great teachers, nominate them to join this prestigious network of professionals. The deadline for nominations is April 1, 2014. The nomination form should be completed early enough to ensure that the nominated teacher is given enough time to thoroughly prepare an application that reflects exemplary teaching prior to the application deadline. Applications are due by May 1, 2014. For more information, visit www.education.nh.gov/recognition/math_science.htm.

Contact: Jiffi Rainie, (603) 271-7450, Jennifer.Rainie@doe.nh.gov

Scholarship Available

The Boston NE NATAS Scholarship Foundation, Inc. (in coordination with the Boston/New England Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts And Sciences) will award a \$5,000 scholarship to a high school senior who intends on declaring their major in the television or related field and will be attending a four year undergraduate college or university. Deadline is December 2, 2013. For more information go to <http://newenglandemmy.org>.

Class Act Video Awards Contest

The goal of this contest is to provide an educational, team-building project for 4th grade students in which they can enjoy the creative challenge of condensing their message into a 60 second time frame. Create a 60 second video with your 4th grade class and teacher to convince someone to come to New Hampshire who has never been here before. Act, sing, make a commercial, do an interview, do a reenactment, or any other idea your class can come up with. All submissions must be received by March 21, 2014. Go to www.visitnh.gov/welcome-to-nh/classactvideoawards/default.aspx for more information.

Letters About Literature 2014

A \$1,000 cash award is the national prize in Letters About Literature, a writing contest sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and coordinated in New Hampshire by the Center for the Book at the New Hampshire State Library. To enter, readers in grades 4-12 write a personal letter to an author, explaining how his or her work changed their view of the world or themselves. State winners will advance to national competition and the first-place winner for New Hampshire at each of three competition levels will receive a \$100 cash prize. Deadline for entries at Level III (grades 9-12) is December 10, 2013. All other entries must be postmarked by January 10, 2014. To obtain the required entry coupon visit <http://lal.nhbookcenter.org>.

Free Grants Writing Workshop for Arts Learning - NH State Council on the Arts

A Grants Writing Workshop for Arts Learning projects will be offered on Wednesday, November 20th, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. The NH State Council on the Arts has a variety of grants available for Academic Year 2014-2015 (FY2015) that support Arts in Education and Integrated Arts Learning in schools and educational settings. These include Artist Residencies in Schools (AIR), Youth Arts Project Grants (for after school and out of school) and General Project Grants. The workshop will cover grant guidelines, roles of partners, curriculum connections, choice of artists, writing goals, evaluation, planning residency schedules and budgets. The workshop is free and open to arts specialists, administrators, parents and teaching artists. Experienced school AIR Coordinators and Teaching Artists will participate in the workshop. For more information or to register contact Catherine O'Brian, (603) 271-0795, or Catherine.R.OBrian@dcr.nh.gov. To learn more about the NH State Council on the Arts grants and resources visit: www.nh.gov/nharts.

Environmental Literacy through the Arts Workshop

This is the second workshop exploring innovative ways to use the arts to teach, document & celebrate environmental literacy in and out of school. This workshop, taking place on Monday, November 18th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Tin Mountain Conservation Center in Albany, NH, is designed for K-12 educators, staff/volunteers of environmental organizations, nature centers and community organizations, after-school and summer program staff and volunteers, parents, artists, and all those interested in learning and

teaching about the environment. For more information or to register go to http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?utm_medium=email&oeidk=a07e8fm6vj_r27c7ea46&llr=g5vgzlbab&utm_campaign=Environmental+Literacy&utm_source=Environmental+Literacy+through+the+Arts+-+Albany or call (603) 323-7302 or e-mail info@aannh.org.

Teaching the ART of Writing: Combining Creativity and Rigor to Address the Common Core

Beth Olshansky, developer of Picturing Writing: Fostering Literacy Through Art and Image-Making Within The Writing Process will be offering a series of experiential teacher workshops at the University of New Hampshire in Durham in early January. Using quality picture books and simple art techniques, Beth will guide teachers through several inquiry-based, project-based units of study that have proven to be not only highly engaging but also effective for a wide range of learners. Learn how to address ELA CCSS while combining both creativity and rigor For more information or to register go to www.picturingwriting.org/combined.html or contact Beth.Olshansky@comcast.net or call (603) 659-6018. Registration deadline is December 2, 2013. To view short video clips of various projects, click on www.picturingwriting.org/videos.html.

Introducing Film Production to your Curriculum

The New Hampshire Film and Television Office and State Council on the Arts are partnering with Lakes Region Community College to offer a professional development workshop for K-12 educators on an introduction to the skills needed to add film production to the curriculum. Media Arts are being considered as their own set of standards in the newly proposed "Next Generation Arts Standards." This workshop will take place at Lakes Region Community College at 4:00 p.m. Thursday, November 14th. There is no-cost for this workshop and a professional development certificate will be offered. For more information or to register contact Julianne Morse at julianne.morse@dcn.nh.gov.

Pre-Engineering Teachers

NHTI is offering a professional development day for engineering teachers on Tuesday, January 7th. Although the four workshops are PLTW focused, all are welcome to attend. Training will be conducted for Inventor, Civil Engineering and Architecture (CEA), Digital Electronics (DE), and VEX Robot at Little Hall on the NHTI campus. The training runs for the full day, with a break for lunch (included).

Class	Time	Location
Inventor Level 3	8:00 - 4:30	Little Hall
VEX Robot C	8:00 - 4:30	Little Hall
CEA - Revit	8:00 - 4:30	Little Hall
Digital Electronics- Combinational Logic	8:00 - 4:30	Little Hall

- Teachers need to bring a laptop with a mouse, and have the 2012 or 2013 version of the relevant software loaded on the computer.
- To determine in which topic areas attendees need reinforcement, and to measure the success of the training, teachers are required to take an assessment prior to and at the end of the training session.

- There is **no cost** for the training and funds are available to pay for substitutes.
Payment for substitutes will only be made if the assessments are completed.
- Space is limited to 25 teachers per session.

Anyone interested should contact jcunningham@ccsnh.edu

Giving Back with Ronald McDonald®!

Your local McDonald's® is pleased to sponsor a free performance at your school. This show is designed to inspire elementary age children (Pre-K to Fourth grade) to give back to the community and discover the magic in helping others. This 40-minute, fun-filled, educational program uses a creative mix of music, magic, skits, audience participation and games to reinforce the value of giving back, the positive effects it has and the enjoyment that comes from it. In addition, the show reinforces the importance of working and playing together. Ultimately, Ronald McDonald delivers a powerful message to children about giving back to the community and building trust among friends. To schedule a performance contact Laurie Webster at Bump A Nose Productions (508) 477-2554 or e-mail: bumpnose@comcast.net.

2013 Ladybug Picture Book Award Voting Reminder

New Hampshire children, from preschoolers to third graders, are invited to vote for their favorite among the 10 titles nominated for the 2013 Ladybug Picture Book Award. If you would like to host a voting site you can find the details, including the required tally sheet for submitting the collected votes, at <http://ladybug.nhbookcenter.org>. Votes must be received at the Center for the Book at the NH State Library by 5:00 p.m. Friday, December 13, 2013. Only votes sent in on the official tally sheet will be counted. E-mail votes will only be accepted if the tally sheet is attached to the e-mail message. Sponsored by the Center for the Book at the New Hampshire State Library, the Ladybug Picture Book Award was established to promote early literacy and honor the best in recent children's picture books.